

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2929 without my signature.

As a result of an historic investment in transportation and infrastructure funding, California will need thousands of new apprentices in the building and construction trades in the coming years. This bill would change the procedures by which apprenticeship programs are approved and then subsequently audited by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Unfortunately, the provisions of this bill could hinder, not help, California's ability to meet its pending need for apprentices.

Specifically, this bill attempts to streamline the audit process of apprenticeship programs to ensure the most efficient use of limited auditing resources. Unfortunately, this bill focuses too heavily on audits of new programs and does not provide for sufficient audits of existing programs. A recent audit of the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards emphasized the importance of a comprehensive audit program, including auditing existing programs.

This bill also fails to address the impact of a 1999 law that prevents a new apprenticeship program from being approved if a similar program already exists in the same geographic area. Not only does this law prevent fair competition, but it will impede the development of the new apprentices our state will need in the coming years.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 2929 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger